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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/835,838	04/16/2001	Mark Vange	CIRC011	4185
25235	7590	03/11/2005	EXAMINER	
HOGAN & HARTSON LLP ONE TABOR CENTER, SUITE 1500 1200 SEVENTEENTH ST DENVER, CO 80202			JAROENCHONWANIT, BUNJOB	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2143	

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/835,838

Applicant(s)

VANGE, MARK

Examiner

Bunjoo Jaroenchonwanit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 14-19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 14-19 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/24/04 has been entered. The argument has been considered, the rejection cited are as stated below.

2. Applicant's arguments filed 11/24/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the remark, by raising a question how a single element in Bruck can represent a gateway and servers, applicant admitted that Bruck disclosed both gateway and servers. Applicant should note that the separation of gateway and servers is irrelevant, since the claims' language does not require the separation of the gateway and servers. Claims' language merely required communication between gateway and servers. In other words, the claims, as presented, could read on either a gateway must be in a different element from a plurality of servers or recites in the same element. Since, at the time of the invention was made, servers or gateways could be constructed from software process or module, which could recite in the same of different computer. Thus, the gateway and servers could operate from a single computer or a group of computer. For instance, a web server could normally have other software modules for functioning as a gateway. Since the claims did not define specific structures, as argued. Bruck is appropriate for claims' rejection.

3. In response to the amendment, since applicant did not amend the claims, the previous rejection is maintained, incorporated and reproduced for convenient, as appear below.

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4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 1-8, 11-12, 14-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bruck et al (US. 6,691,165).

6. Claims 1-8, 11-12, 14-16 and 18, Bruck discloses a system for load balancing in a network environment comprising:

a plurality of servers coupled by a plurality of communication channels to a network (back end servers connected to internet via a front end servers cluster 200, Fig.2; 1704, Fig. 17);

a set of network resources associated with each of the servers, wherein at least some of the network resources are redundant (abstract, server cluster 204, Fig. 2; 1706-1708, Fig. 17; Col. 5, lines 21-50; Col.28, lines 17-63);

a client coupled to the network and generating a request specifying some of the redundant resources (Clients 1710, Fig. 17)

a gateway machine coupled to the network in communication with the client, the gateway machine configured to receive the request from the client (front end server cluster 200 or 1704), select from amongst the servers that are associated with the request-specified redundant services, establish communication channels with the selected server over one of the communication channels, and access the specified server to service the received client request; and

means coupled to the gateway machine for selecting amongst servers of redundant resources a particular server for a received request so as to balance load amongst the servers providing redundant resources and to balance load across the plurality of communication

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channels (Abstract; Col. 2, lines 42-67; Col. 3, lines 22-44; Col. 5, line 21-Col. 7, line 40; Col. 12, line 3-Col. 13, line 5; Col. 28, line 17-Col. 29, line 58).

7. Claims 9, 10, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Bruck et al, as applied to claim 1 above, in view of San Andres et al (US. 5,956,489).

8. Regarding claim 19, Bruck discloses the invention substantially, as claimed, as described in claim 1, including front end, i.e., intermediary server, are is separate address domain from back end server (Fig. 2, and 17). Bruck is silent to queuing request in the intermediary server. However, in an analogous art, San Andres discloses a gateway, i.e., intermediary server, which includes service map and a queue data structure for queuing service request, as claimed. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the request queue as suggested in San Andres for balancing service among server as suggested in San Andres (San Andres, Fig. 1, 4-5; Col. 5, lines 40-55; Col. 6, lines 22-31; Col. 8, lines 4-12; Col. 7, lines 48-56; Col. 8, lines 4-35; Col. 9, lines 32-52; Col. 10, line 40-Col. 13, line 48; Col. 18, lines 10-15; Col. 21, lines 24-32).

9. Regarding claims 9, 10 and 17, Bruck discloses the invention substantially, as claimed, as described in claim 1, including means to select server for providing redundant services, but the selecting server does not explicitly include the factors, such as the relative quality and load threshold. However using relative quality for selecting server to provide service is conventional idea, which also taught in -San Andres. San Andres, in the same field of endeavor, teaches session map, MCP locator and redirector for monitoring and redirecting service request based on load of the server resided in gateway, (Fig. 1, 4-5, Col. 7, lines 32-56; Col. 10, line 53 - Col. 13, line 48), which clearly associated relative quality for server selection. In addition, San Andres

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teaches allocation server loads is based on threshold comparison, (Col. 7, lines 47-56). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to associate relative service quality for selecting server as suggested in San Andres for balancing service among servers as suggested in San Andres (San Andres, Fig. 1, 4-5; Col. 5, lines 4055; Col. 6, lines 22-31; Col. 8, lines 4-12; Col.7, lines 48-56; Col. 8, lines 4-35; Col. 9, lines 32-52; Col. 10, line 40-Col. 13, line 48; Col. 18, lines 10-15; Col.21, lines 24-32).

10. This is a continuation of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/835838. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

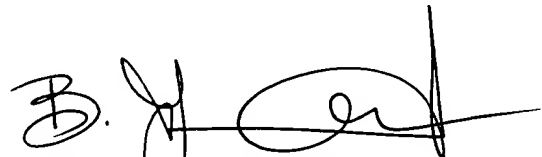
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit whose telephone number is (571) 272-3913. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Jaroenchonwanit', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit
Primary Examiner
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/bj
2/26/05